Buckley Elementary School

Bobcat News

A Great Place to Grow and Explore

February 2015

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Bobcat Central

250 Vernon Street Manchester, CT 06042

> Phone: (860)647-3302 Fax: (860)647-5007 Illness: (860)647-3344 Nurse: (860)647-3303

Principal's Corner

I hope everyone is having a great winter!

As we make our way into February, our students are in the midst of taking some benchmark assessments. These assessments will help us identify how our students are performing and will help drive our instruction. All our students are working very hard and they are doing their best work!

As you know, we make every attempt at holding recess outdoors. However, we will not hold outdoor recess if it is too cold, icy, raining or the wind chill results in low temperatures. If this does happen, we will hold indoor recess. When we do go outdoors, please make sure that your child is prepared which includes a warm jacket, mittens/gloves, hat and/or scarf and boots. During the winter months we do not allow the students to use the playscape.

During the month of February, we will be celebrating Black History Month through a variety of ways. For example, classrooms will be reading about historical Black figures and we will be holding a whole school assembly on February 24th that will feature African and African-American Folktales and Storysongs.

While the month of February is short, we do have a few important events happening. Listed below is a calendar of those events.

February 12 **PTA** meeting @ 6:30

February 20 Variety Show @ 6:00

February 24 Whole School Assembly!

March 10 Science Fair/Invention Convention @ 6:30



Bobcat News

Principal's Corner Continued

I would like to welcome a few new staff member to Buckley School. Ms. Kara Seaha is our second permanent building substitute. Ms. Seaha will be working in all K-5 classrooms. She recently completed her student teaching. In addition, Ms. Rivers joins Buckley School as our reading tutor. She replaced Mrs. Silberberg. Ms. Rivers has also just completed her student teaching. Finally, Mr. Webster also joins the Buckley Family as our new Family Resource Center Coordinator. Please welcome all our new staff to Buckley School.

Please know that you will be receiving information regarding your March conferences toward the end of February. As a friendly reminder, conference sign ups were held at the Fall conferences.

I hope you have a great February!

Sincerely,

Matthew Daly

Matthew Daly

Please Note: Please note that their will be a Principal's Coffee in February. Look for more details in the near future!



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Manchester Public Schools

Buckley Elementary School 250 Vernon Street Manchester, CT 06042 www.mpspride.org Mr. Matthew Daly,
Principal

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A Great Place to Grow and Explore

January 28, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians;

I am writing this letter to update you on a few areas.

As a reminder, Manchester Public Schools has changed its email address. Specifically, we are a Google district. Therefore, our email addresses now end with @mpspride.org. Please note that our school website has our addresses.

The circle on the side of our building off of Vernon Street has been very busy with vehicles. Please know that there is no parking on the inner part of the circle. If there are no parking spots available, please use the back parking lot also off Vernon Street or the parking lot in the far back, off Barry Road. Thank you for your assistance.

Manchester Public Schools is highlighting students and stories from all our schools! Please visit the district website to see Buckley's highlights!

The Buckley Science Fair/Invention Convention has been changed to March 10 from 6:30-7:30. We hope to see many people there!

As a reminder, please remember to report to our main office when initially coming into Buckley School. Once in our main office, we will give you a visitor badge if you are visiting a classroom.

Thank you for all your support!

Sincerely,

Matthew Daly

Matthew Daly

Principal

Pride in Excellence



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MONTH of FEBRUARY 2015

Sun- day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat- urday
1	2 B Day	3 C Day	4 A Day	5 B Day	6 C Day	7
	ROCKS 3:30		1:17 DISMISSAL			
8	9 A Day ROCKS 3:30	10 B Day	11 C Day	12 A Day PTA Mtg 6:30pm	B Day Pep Rally 2:30	14
15	16 NO SCHOOL	17 NO SCHOOL	18 C Day	19 A Day	20 B Day Variety Show 6:00 p.m.	21
22	26 C Day ROCKS 3:30	24 A Day	25 B Day	26 C Day	27 A Day Variety Show Snow date 6:00pm	28

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Kindergarten

It has been a busy month in Kindergarten! We started off with our new sharing and setting learning goals for 2015. We have learned about nighttime and animals in winter. We are looking forward to Groundhog Day to see what the groundhog predicts.



We learned more letter sounds, including the vowels A and I and have been practicing sounding out words in our reading and writing. We will learn more vowel sounds in February and focus more on word identification and our writing skills. You should begin to notice more reading skills emerging and the homework will reflect these changes. Please make sure your child completes his or her homework every Friday. This teaches responsibility and the homework reinforces the skills we are instructing in school.

We have been busy working on adding and subtracting numbers within 5 and are preparing for the 100th day of school. Students have been practicing counting on to put groups together. We are excited to show you how we can count by 1's and 10's to 100. Thank you for your continued support.

Thank you, Mrs. Hoffman and Miss Lavallee

First Grade

What a great start we had to the New Year! Our first graders returned to school on January 5th ready to learn and working hard! Our focus in both reading and writing has been on non-fiction text! We have been identifying and using the various text features in non-fiction text that help us better understand what we are reading!

In math, we continue to work hard on our place value concepts. The children have done an excellent job identifying and manipulating the tens and ones in two-digit numbers and are getting ready to move on to adding with them!

We look forward to many exciting events in February including Groundhog's Day, the 100th Day of School, Valentine's Day, and Chinese New Year!



Thank you, Mrs. Bourcier, Miss Patrylak, and Ms. Seaha

Second Grade

January has been a "snowball" of success for the second graders at Buckley School!

Throughout the month of February the students will be entering into the world of informational writing! In this unit, students will have the opportunity to create their very own "How -To" book. They will also be researching a topic to develop their own informational text. These texts will include a table of contents,

headings, diagrams, and more! Be sure to ask your child what their topic will be about!



Students have been fully immersed in a variety of realistic fiction texts. The students are now able to identify the characteristics of realistic fiction while providing evidence from a given text. Have your child tell you all about how the characters have changed throughout the stories we have read!

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Second Grade Continued

In math, the students have become expert problem solvers! The students have been working to check their answers using multiple strategies. In addition, students are beginning to solve multi-step problems requiring complex thinking. Along with problem solving, students have begun to practice and strengthen their math skills through the use of Fast Math. This is a computer program which tracks your child's growth pertaining to their math fact fluency. Please continue to practice basic math facts at home as this

is an essential skill necessary for moving forward with more challenging

mathematical tasks!

We have completed our science unit featuring "Little D" and the "Royal Food Group" this past month! The students are successfully able to identify all of the five food groups and tell about the nutritional value. The students truly enjoyed this interactive unit! Be on the lookout for our next unit about the states of matter!

With Valentine's Day quickly approaching, please remember that Valentines must be free of any food or candy, as this is a district policy. Also, keep in

mind that homework is an important component in your child's learning experience. Please be sure to encourage your child to continue being responsible with their homework. We look forward to seeing you next month for conferences!

Thank you, Miss Adams and Mrs. Strickland

Third Grade

It has been an exciting Winter with all of these near misses from snowstorms and icy temperatures. Things have been heating up in third grade. We have finished the Multiplication and Division unit and although the students have mastered the strategies, they have not mastered their facts. We are utilizing Fast Math, which the students can use at home for free, and fact fluency centers.

We have seen dramatic improvement in fluency when a student practices their facts at home as well. One student shared that her parents quiz her and her brother in the car! Great idea! Please continue to encourage your children to learn their facts for all four operations, so they they can be better prepared for the fourth grade math curriculum and beyond. In Math, we will be entering the world of fractions. Students are expected to know, measure, and compare 1/2, 1/3, 1/4, 1/6, and ½ as well as other like and unlike fractions.

We are concentrating on comparing and contrasting, problem and solution, and sequencing in Reading using nonfiction text both in guided reading and whole group instruction.

In writing, we are continuing the Lucy Calkins unit on Informational writing. This has comprised of researching a topic and writing a five paragraph essay that consists of a well structured introduction paragraph, body paragraphs (big ideas for the chosen topic) and a concluding paragraph.

We will also be welcoming The Hartford Stage into third grade. This will be a week long program based on a famous African American figure and the instructor will be utilizing a biographical picture book as an instructional resource throughout the learning unit. This is their second year of joining Buckley School and if last year is any indication, the students are going to love it.



Thank you, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Sweetland, and Mrs. Edwards

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Fourth Grade

February is "Electric" in fourth grade. This month we will study magnets and electricity in Science. We will build simple circuits and light some bulbs! In both Math and English/Language Arts we are into our third units. They are huge!

We will study various types of traditional literature including fables, myths, legends, and folktales. Part of the new standards requires us to determine the meanings of common mythological phrases like "Midas touch" or "Herculean task". We will be looking at figurative language, and the structure and elements of drama, poetry, and prose. The children will write lots of essays, especially opinion pieces. This unit is going to take us through the end of March.

In Math, it is all fractions until April. At the beginning we look at equivalent fractions and then get into adding, subtracting, and multiplying fractions. We will also learn about the relationship between fractions, decimals, and percentages. As you can see, fourth grade is full of fun and challenging work!



Thank you,

Ms. Godbout, Mrs. Hoke, and Ms. Marocchini

Fifth Grade

This February, students will be taking mid-year assessments as well as preparing for the science portion for the Connecticut Mastery Test. We are hoping that the old adage from Ben Franklin's "Poor Richard's Almanac" will be applied by all parents: "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man (or woman) healthy, wealthy, and wise." Let's push for the "wise"!

In social studies, we will be concluding our research on the early colonies with dioramas and oral presentations of colonial occupations. Students will be sharing all they have learned with their class and displaying their work in our fifth grade hallway throughout the month. Following this, we will begin studying the events leading up to the Revolutionary War and how the thirteen colonies became the United States of America. During this unit, we will be incorporating pieces of literature, poetry, and films to help bring this period to life.

To celebrate Black History Month the fifth grade will attend *Freedom Trail* at the Bushnell, which documented the life of Harriet Tubman. In class, we will be doing follow up activities to enforce the theme of justice and equality for all.

Our independent reading program should still be a daily part of your child's homework. Please encourage your child to read independently for 20-30 minutes every day. Thank you for your help with this request.

Thank you, Miss Brahm, Mrs. Jodoin, and Mrs. Adinolfi





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Literacy Corner

Mark Your Calendars! Read Across America Day is March 2, 2015!

Be a part of the reading excitement and drive home the message about of the importance of reading. Please join the Cat in the Hat in celebrating Dr. Seuss' Birthday by coming into Buckley School on March 2 to read a favorite book to our students. (A flyer with sign-up information will be sent home later this month.)

Motivating children to read is an important factor in student achievement and in creating lifelong successful readers. Re-

search has shown that children who spend more time reading do better in school. "You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read with a child." Hope to see you on March 2!

Thank you,

Tammy O'Malley Literacy Coach



MAP News

This month we continued our winter theme. We talked about the specific clothing we need to keep our bodies warm in the cold weather. We made penguins and snowmen. Our circle rhymes were "5 Little Snowflakes" and "5 Little Snowmen". Both rhymes help us to practice our counting skills. We read the books, <u>Snowmen at Work</u> by Caralyn Buehner and <u>One Snowy Night</u> by Beth Harwood.

Thank you,

Mrs. Rodowicz





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Specials

P.E.

Students in Ms. Falkowski's class have been practicing their leaping, jumping and hopping skills. Students are traveling like a variety of animals would travel. The students have been engaged in stations that allow for optimal practice of the learned skills. Students are traveling like frogs, zebra's, snakes, and crabs to name a few. The older students are being taught fitness concepts, muscle location and exercises that focus on development of each muscle learned.

Mr. Kolze's kindergarten class is also learning about ways different animals travel. They too have ample amounts of practice through the use of stations. The students in grades 3-5 have been learning about the heart and why the speed of our hearts may increase at times. We have practiced locating our pulse, students have been introduced to the concepts of Resting Heart Rate and Active Heart Rate. Students are engaged in aerobic activities that cause their heart rate to increase. At times during the lessons, I've stop the activity and have students take their heart rates.

Thank you, Mr. Kolze and Ms. Falkowski

ART

Congratulations to Jaireliz R., Krystyna L., and Sabrina K. who had artwork to represent Buckley School in the 2015 Art Department calendar! I am also very proud of Madison N. and Lyla R. who were the two Fire Prevention poster contest winners in 4th and 5th grade from Buckley School. The posters that they created stood out from the many that were judged by the fire department throughout the town! Thank you to all of the 4th and 5th grade artists for passing along important messages about fire safety. Another congratulations to Skyler C., Sabrina K., and Jamie D.! Their artwork was submitted to the National PTA Reflections Program in December. The theme for this year was "The world would be a better place if..." I am glad that these students are using their creative skills to pass along important messages about saving endangered species, not polluting or littering, and recycling. The date of the Lutz Exhibit this year will be in March. Students from Buckley School will be notified sometime during the month of February if their artwork is chosen for this exhibit! Stay warm and safe as we get closer and closer to Spring!

Thank you, Mrs. Maloney

MUSIC

Greetings from the music room!

Exciting developments in music class - we've begun learning dances for the Spring Festival! This year there will be line dancing, circle dancing, morris dancing, and more!

Kindergarten has also been starting to echo songs by themselves - they are singing solos! Ask them for a demonstration of "Down By The Bay", where we have llamas in pajamas and ghosts eating toast. First grade has been practicing sad sighs about our "Blue Cockatoo" as well as picking our favorite version of "The Fox Went Out". Second grade has been writing out simple songs on the staff using poker chips. They can tell high, middle, and low in their song "Hot Cross Buns."

Third grade learned a complicated dance game called "Turn the Glasses Over" where they have to turn their partner the correct direction, or end up tangled and twisted. Fourth grade has been writing out the complicated rhythm for "Mulberry Bush" using Du, Du-Da-Di, and Du-Di. Can they perform it for you? Fifth grade has been working on writing as well, but with the solfege Do, Re, Mi, and Sol. Everyone had success figuring out "Let Us Chase the Squirrel!"



Fifth grade has also been getting ready for Townwide Honors Choir auditions. They will be held on February 2nd, 3rd, and 5th during recess. Twelve members of our fifth grade will be able to represent our school at the Townwide Chorus Concert on April 9th. Best of luck to all auditionees!



The Family Resource Center

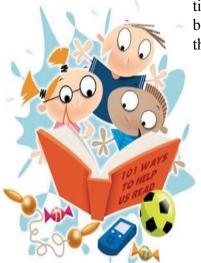
Lunch Bunch is coming!

I am very excited to an- The groups are organounce that the Family nized by grade to en-Resource Center at Buck- sure the students are will be lev "Lunch Bunch" grades kindergarten to engaged in the activi-3rd grade.

"Lunch Bunch" is a literacv program that focuses on making reading fun by getting the family involved in this process. "Lunch Bunch" invites parents, guardians and adult family members into the school to eat with their student and participate in age appropriate reading and activities.

hosting comfortable with the for reading content and These currently take place at other Family Resource Centers in Manchester Public Schools and are enjoved by the students and family alike. Permission slips were sent home to Kindergarten to 3rd grade and are due by January 30th. Once I have received the permission slips I will be able to begin

planning dates. "Lunch Bunch" will be extended to 4th and 5th grades after I am able to deter-

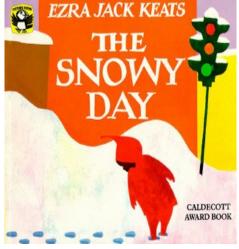


mine the level of participation from the other grade levels. My goal is to have everyone interested to participate at least once before expanding to the 4th and 5th grades.

Book of the season

The Snowy Day By Ezra Jack Keats

No book has captured the magic and sense of possibility of the first snowfall better than "The Snowy Day". Universal in its appeal, the story has become a favorite of millions, as it reveals a child's wonder at a new world, and the hope of capturing and keeping that wonder forever. This is a great bed time story or practice for reading aloud.





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Produce of the month of February: Beets from 95210

Nutritional Information:

- Beets are packed with nutrients and a good source of Vitamin C, iron, and magnesium
- Beets are an excellent source of folic acid which is essential for pregnant woman since it is crucial to the development of a babies spinal cord and brain development

Selecting, Storing, Preparing

- Select beets that are small and firm with a deep maroon color • and bright green leaves
- Trim their leaves and store the leaves and bulb root in separate • plastic bags placed in refrigerator

Recipes/Ideas

Beets can be roasted with olive

- oil, salt, and pepper for a simple side dish
- Roasted beets pair well with arugula and goat cheese for an elegant salad
- Delight kids with a hot pink mass by adding cooked beets to mashed potatoes

Ways to keep your kids active in the colder months

It is tough to get the recommended 1 5. Create a fun indoor obstacle hour of exercise a day when it is so cold outside but here are some creative indoor ideas on how to keep your child active through the winter months:

- 1. Have a dance party-crank up the 8. Window shop at the mall music and get moving,
- 2. Have hallway races
- 3. Exercise together-do jumping jacks, push ups, sit ups or run in place
- 4. Play active Simon Says

- course
- Have an indoor scavenger hunt
- Visit the local pool
- 9. Go ice skating or roller skating
- 10. Visit the Science Center, museums or other fun indoor places that allow for walking

Manchester's Message for a Healthier You: Every day, every child should aim for 1 hour of physical activity

Buckley Elementary 250 Vernon Street Manchester, CT 06042

Sean Webster Family Resource Center Coordinator Phone: 860-647-3302

Manchester

Our mission at the Family Resource Centers is to support and uplift the schoolfamily-community partnership, by providing a broad base of educational and supportive programs. Our success in fulfilling our mission hinges on positive and healthy community and family relationships. In delivering our services, we work closely with schools, social service agencies, and our community partners.



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Spring is just around the corner, but I usually advise students to wear their winter coats or several layers until April vacation. With the warmer weather in mind, please remember that flip flops and slide-

in sandals are not allowed at Buckley School. These types of shoes are considered a safety hazard and should be saved for home use. Students are encouraged to wear sneakers, tie shoes or sandals that strap around the ankle (no heels). Speaking of tie shoes, please take time every day to work on this skill with your students that are still trying to master tying and untying their shoes.



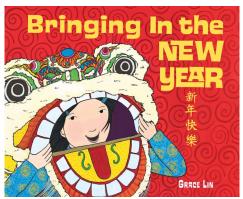
Thank you,

Mrs. Hussey

Media Center

For a short month, February is certainly action packed, on the 2nd, we will all be looking to see if Chuckles the groundhog sees his shadow or as Crockett Johnson says in the title of his classic book Will Spring be early? Or will Spring be late? Only the Shadow knows.

Then on February 19th, we welcome in the Year of the Sheep as the 14 day celebration of Chinese New Year begins. If you've ever wondered what the celebration is like check out Grace Lin's book Bringing in the New Year or laugh with the Runaway Rice Cake by Ying Chang Compestine.



These topics are among those that the primary students will be hearing about during their Library time this month.

However, our primary focus for all grades will be Black History Month. The younger students will learn of the courage of Ruby Bridges in her biography Through My Eyes and Rosa Parks in The Bus Ride That

<u>Changed History</u>. Students in the upper grades will be working online and Library projects that will reflect the use of quilts as maps on the Underground Railroad. We will use books such as Faith Ringgold's <u>Aunt Harriet Railroad in The Sky</u>, Betty Stroud's <u>Patchwork Path</u>, and Vaunda Nelson's <u>Almost To Freedom</u> as the cornerstone of this unit.

Thank you,

Ms. Quinn-Lake



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PBIS Corner

The following students were selected to receive recognition for the month of January. They were selected as having shown exemplary behavior in one of the three PBIS categories. These students participated in a fun activity during our Fun Friday!

TEACHER	BE SAFE	BE RESPECTFUL	BE RESPONSIBLE
Mrs. Hoffman	Alyssa Puglise	Kylie Prentiss	Elijah Bucko
Miss Lavallee	Anna Smith	Makena Williams	Conor Merritt
Miss Patrylak	Gavin Martin	Natalia Harnois	Lucas Chen
Mrs. Bourcier	Cody Fateaux	Brianna Seypura	Cameron Spiewak
Ms. Seaha	Nina Bazzano	Adrian Seypura	Ametri Harris-Webb
Miss Adams	Sophia Witwicki	Karla Daha	Adrian Carrasquillo
Mrs. Strickland	Jonathan Daub	Alexa Renduchintala	Shayla Cashman
Mrs. Edwards	Sophie Reyes	Hector Pena	Alyssa Kucher
Mr. Murphy	Joseph Commisso	Corey Verraneault	Cayden Blaschik
Mr. Sweetland	Daneyes White	Aiden Kilgus	Rowan Ridel
Ms. Godbout	Katherine Turley	Jayden Cersosimo	Shubhan Tamhane
Mrs. Hoke	Aaisha Mamun	Christian Labbie	Andrew Addy
Ms. Marocchini	Alayshia Bell	Rishi Mallepally	Victoria Mordasky
Mrs. Adinolfi	CJ Cotto	Hannah Coughlin	Lyla Ratches
Mrs. Jodoin	Dylan Jackson	Joey Gentile	Aureliana Brown
Miss Brahm	Allyson Till	Adam Rodowicz	Jack Larson
Mrs. Rodowicz	Above and Beyond	Daya Barnes	
Ms. Boccia	Above and Beyond	Julian Rock	
Mrs. Lonergan	Improved Behavior	Jacob Stoute	

These students received the Pillars Of Character for the month of January:

Mrs. Hoffman—Austin Allen	Mr. Murpny—Julia Duval
Miss Lavallee—Kai Cabrera	Mr. Sweetland—Eno-Yaa Kissi
Miss Patrylak—Fedora Yeboah	Ms. Godbout—Collin Merritt
Mrs. Bourcier—Kylee Cruelles	
Ms. Seaha—Makayla Barrows	Ms. Marocchini—Raif Rashid
Mrs. Rodowicz—Daya Barnes	Mrs. Adinolfi—Mahek Rentia
Micc Adame_I guren Smith	Mrs. Iodoin—Cody Winchell

Mrs. Rodowicz—Daya Barnes

Mrs. Adinorn—Manek Rentia

Mrs. Jodoin—Cody Winchell

Mrs. Strickland—Paige Basquait

Mrs. Brahm—Gabriel Johnson

Mrs. Edwards—Austin March

Learning Center—Camilla Ortega

Mrs. Adinorn—Manek Rentia

Mrs. Adinorn—Manek Rentia

Mrs. Adinorn—Manek Rentia

Mrs. Adinorn—Manek Rentia

Art—Adrianna Figueroa

Social Work—Charlise Brown

Pre-School—Connor Anderson, Lucas Reid, Maya Sampel, Jaylen Melendez, Rhoda Efianayi

Media Center—Adrian Carrasquillo Music—Usman Avais

Gym—Julianna Kulpanowski

Speech & Language—Usman Avais

Congratulations to everyone who was recognized! When you are in the building, please stop by our bulletin board in the main foyer to see photographs of our exemplary Buckley Bobcats!!



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Manchester Public Schools

Buckley Elementary School 250 Vernon Street Manchester, CT 06042

www.mpspride.org

Mr. Matthew Daly

Principal

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A Great Place to Grow and Explore

February 1, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is with much pleasure that I write this letter to you to announce a new program we have at Buckley School.

Buckley School is fortunate to have secured a **Family Resource Center** that we will use in order to assist all families. The **Family Resource Center** is structured to assist families in a variety of ways including accessing services through the town, conducting playgroups, and participating in **PTA** events. The Resource Center will be located just off the cafeteria and will be open on Monday's and Tuesday's.

Please welcome Mr. Sean Webster who will be leading Buckley School's Family Resource Center.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Matthew Daly

Matthew Daly Principal

Pride in Excellence



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Buckley School PTA News and Events

BuckleyElementaryPTA@gmail.com



Our next PTA meeting will be held Thursday, Feb. 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the Buckley cafeteria!



The PTA will hear from the third-grade teachers and their student representatives to find out what's going on in their classrooms. We'll recap our successful Movie Night, and hear about the upcoming Variety Show, Spring Book Fair, and Family Game Night. Children are welcome!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



The annual Variety Show will be held Friday, Feb. 20, with a snow date of Friday, Feb. 27. The fifth-graders are rehearsing their act and the teachers are getting ready to have some fun! Rehearsals on ongoing for these two special performances and the other acts in the show. As usual, the night is sure to entertain!

SHOWING OUR STUDIOUS SIDE

Buckley School has dozens of students participating in the school system's Invention Convention and Town Wide PTA Science Fair who are developing a host of amazing projects. The school's competition will be held in early March. We wish our students the best of luck!



UPCOMING EVENTS

March is gearing up to be a busy month at Buckley School. The PTA is planning for its Spring Book Fair from March 16 to 20 and Family Game Night on Friday, March 20. One thing's for sure: Buckley students love to read and are quick in their math skills, especially when it's made to be fun!

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